

Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 000009-007

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested for claims 1-6. Favorable action is requested for new claim 7.

The disclosure was objected to. The disclosure has been amended to address the grounds for objection, and withdrawal of the objection is cordially urged.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-6 have been amended to address the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is cordially urged.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 01/92049.

Claim 1, as amended, defines a stage-geared gearbox for motor vehicles, comprising an unsynchronized basic gearbox, the unsynchronized basic gearbox comprising at least one unsynchronized gear. The stage-geared gearbox also comprises at least one synchronized auxiliary gear, and at least one control unit for controlling engagement of the unsynchronized and synchronized auxiliary gears and neutral positions of the unsynchronized and synchronized gears, wherein, when the control unit receives a driver shift input to put all unsynchronized gears of the basic gearbox in a basic gearbox neutral position, the control unit puts the at least one synchronized auxiliary gear in an auxiliary gear neutral position.

WO 01/92049 discloses a stage-geared gearbox in which a control unit puts a split gear in a neutral position when an input signal representing zero throttle is detected. WO 01/92049 does not disclose or suggest putting at least one synchronized auxiliary gear in a neutral position when a control unit receives driver shift input to put all unsynchronized gears of the basic gearbox in a basic gearbox neutral position.

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In view of the differences between claim 1 and WO 01/92049, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom, claims 2-7, are not anticipated by WO 01/92049. Withdrawal of the rejection is cordially urged.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance is cordially urged.

If the Examiner should be of the opinion that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

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Date: January 15, 2007

Respectfully submitted,
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